

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 SR-02 ORM-03 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /142 W

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O P 041551Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0838

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, AU

SUBJECT: EX-SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL

PROTEST DELAYS IN ISSUANCE OF RETURN VISAS

1. IN GESTURE OF DESPARATION, A GROUP OF 30 SOVIET
JEWS (19 ADULTS AND 11 CHILDREN) WH HAD RETURNED
AT VARIOUS TIMES FROM ISRAEL TO AUSTRIA IN HOPES OF
OBTAINING REENTRY VISAS TO USSR FORCED THEIR WAY
INTO SOVIET CONSULATE IN VIENNA TO DEMAND SPEEDIER PROCESSING
OF THEIR APPLICATIONS. WHEN PROTESTERS REFUSED TO
LEAVE PREMISES IN WAKE OF UNSATISFACOTRY DISCUSSION
WITH CONSULAR OFFICIAL, CITY POLICE WAS ASKED TO
EVICT THEM. NO ARRESTS WERE MADE. IN WAKE OF THIS
INCIDENT, FONOFF HAS DECIDED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS
HERE AND IN MOSCOW TO SPEED UP PROCESSING OF THESE
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"EX-SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS".

2. COMMENT: THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 250 59 300
FORMER SOVIET JEWS IN VIENNA AWAITING PERMISSION TO
RETURN TO SOVIET UNION. ABOUT 150 LIVE IN
DILAPIDATED BUILDING (MALZGASSE 1) ALREADY EAR-
MARKED FOR DEMOLITION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF FIRST
GROUP OF SOVIET JEWISH RETURNEES FROM ISRAEL
SEVERAL YEARS AGO. LEGALLY THEY ARE STATELESS
PERSONS HAVING LOST SOVIET CITIZENSHIP UPON
EMIGRATION AND ISRAELI NATURALIZATION WHEN THEY
OPTED TO LEAVE AGAIN. THE VIENNA SOCIAL WELFARE
DEPARTMENT DONATED 200,000 SCHILLINGS ON NOV 6
TO HELP EASE BLIGHT OF THESE PEOPLE. WHILE
REPRESENTING LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S
SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION THROUGH AUSTRIA, THE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE NOW IN VIENNA AWAITING READMITTANCE
TO USSR HAS GROWN IN RECENT YEARS AS TOTAL JEWISH
EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION HAS INCREASED. AS
FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE
THUS FAR PERMITTED ONLY VERY FEW TO REENTER USSR.
COMMUNIST PRESS PERIDOICALLY PLAYS UP DISSATISFACTION
OF SOVIET JEWS WITH CONDITIONS THEY FOUND IN ISRAEL
FREQUENTLY USING INDIVIDUALS AWAITING REENTRY PER-
MISSION TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR CRITICISM
OF ISRAEL AND THEREBY DISCOURAGE OTHERS FROM
"BEING LURED TO ISRAEL".HUMES

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